



**Meeting Notes  
First Universalist Church Board  
July 13, 2020**

**Opening:**

- Light the Chalice, Establish Quorum
- Meditation: Sean Parker Dennison: In Praise of Praise
- Present: Joanna, Jen C., Marge, Sarah, Stew, Joe, Nancy. Rev Frieda joined later.
- Absent: Andrew T., sent thoughts before meeting via email

**Consent Agenda: please read attachments**

- Notes from previous meeting
- Treasurer and Stewardship materials attached
- Final Minister's Report
- President's Report – Q if Tuesdays will work for Board meetings
- Interim assessment prepared by Joanna on behalf of the Board
- Interim assessment prepared by Rev. Frieda Gillespie

**Agenda Discussion Areas:**

**1. PANDEMIC: Staying Connected & Thinking Ahead**

Questions:

How can the friends and members of First Universalist stay connected through the social distancing requirements of the pandemic? How can we re-open, in what ways, and how can we make sure that our congregation's needs are being met in safe inclusive ways?

Discussion:

CONNECTIONS: Rev. Frieda is making telephone calls. We are creating opportunities such as pastoral calls with Frieda, Summer Circles and Sunday night Vespers but not many people are attending. It's not the time of year that we are usually in community? We decided to put our energy towards September rather than July and August, beyond what is already in the works.

REOPENING TEAM includes Joanna Landsman, Leslie Livingston, Charlie Horstmann, Anne Turner, Marge Titcomb, Dorothy McAloney, and Cindy Guernsey. Others such as Jen Civiello and Pete Titcomb are on-call for specific questions. Team met 7.13.2020, planning to meet again in 2 weeks

Re-Opening Team: talked about parameters from UUA, ME Council of Churches, CDC. Leslie L is going to draft a model for us, for renters and any use of the building (staff, minister, congregation individuals and groups).

Phase 1: from now to Ingathering.

Phase 2: beyond.

Discussion will continue after Worship Council meeting, which will take prelim report into consideration as they plan the upcoming months.

**2. WELCOME Hillary Collins Gilpatrick! Ministry Start-up**

Question:

What do we need to do now, (and what gets put on the August list) to be ready for our new called Minister?

#### Discussion:

WELCOMING HILLARY: There will be retreats and meetings galore starting on August 1<sup>st</sup>: Worship Council, RE Council, Faith in Action meeting, and plans for more retreats and meetings: Leadership Retreat, Cong. Conn. Meeting, Annual Meeting. Ingathering, Annual Meeting. It will be a rush, and Hillary will join us in the excitement and planning effort soon, but the more we are ready and know our own priorities, the better she can jump in.

Day of HCG arrival: Joanna and Lisa Patterson will welcome and take care of paperwork. Jeanette Newton and Sarah will join in on cleaning. Pete will provide the key that Frieda returned.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY: We will discuss the composition and purpose of the [Committee on Ministry](#). A couple of people have stepped forward to volunteer but the Board decided it was premature to get specific with names or composition.

Marge: appreciated UUA document which highlighted COM issues, and suggested that the purpose of the COM should be Ministerial Advisement and Conflict Engagement. Andrew Tonks also sent an email to the Board, adding Professional Development to those recommendations. The fourth possible area of focus for COM is Congregational Assessment but we feel that would be covered by both our annual goals and our future 5-Year Strategic Plan work.

We agreed that we have had many problems, and learned what doesn't work. Let's carry that good work forward in a healthy way.

Mostly, we want to be open to HCG input.

Perhaps part of Leadership Retreat would be a workshop on COM for anyone interested: What it is, what it isn't.

We could have a sunset provision on a Phase 1 of the COM: a chance to check in on how it's doing and whether HCG feels the composition and purpose is appropriate.

INGATHERING: physical outdoor event the day before? (Need to make reservations etc.)

Concern over those who cannot come.

Brainstorm an alternative: parades, small groups of 10.

We could talk with her. We could all drive by the church.

We could create a drive-in with sound, music etc.

We could create a circle of cars.

Sarah will check out using Royal River Park for big circle.

*EDIT: Nancy Dix sent a message to the Board the morning after this meeting suggesting a Food Truck – perhaps a Portland minority owner - and a socially distanced line which HCG could safely meet people. We could also invite the tenants at 95 Main. (Possible expansion of idea to Clam Festival?)*

### **3. Stewardship in new territory**

#### Question:

How will we provide adequate funding to our programs, staff, and facilities in the absence of the usual fundraisers?

#### Discussion:

STATE OF THE TREASURY: It appears that we will have positive FY20 in the end, numbers to be finalized by Marge. There will be no income from our usual big fundraiser events in the coming year: Clam Festival, Holiday Fair, Farm Supper, Gala, no rentals. BUT between grants, forgivable loans, and the VNS plan to run in the fall, we expect a gap of only \$30 thousand for FY21, which must be filled by January for cash flow.

EVENT IDEAS: Marge: More than one event? See it as a Capital Campaign vs cookies and pies. Too early to make the message known. Create positive forward-looking message. Let's figure out what we want to communicate by the Annual Meeting.

Nancy Dix idea: market this as **community supported agriculture**. Pay now, reap later.  
CSA: Congregational Support & Abundance? Community Spiritual Abundance?  
Need to generate \$30,000. Full share, half share, quarter shares!?. That is \$500 per family. (60 families)

Message of Stone Soup from Braver and Wiser: it's not that you have so little to give, it's that you don't realize that what you have to give can make such a difference.

### **Reflections and Closing**

Gratitude:

Sarah will write to Gwen for maintaining boundaries, coordinating things, thrives on having lots of balls in the air. Super power.

Nancy will write to Dorothy for keeping the Hannaford Cards.

### **Coming up:**

Exec Meeting – August 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup>, TBD with HCG

Board Meeting – 5:30 pm, TUESDAY August 11<sup>th</sup>

Food Truck party – Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup>

InGathering Worship – Sunday September 13<sup>th</sup>

Annual Meeting – Sunday September 27<sup>th</sup>

Leadership Retreat – date TBD with Hillary.

### **Items coming up for agenda for August meeting:**

- Details of Ingathering Event (Saturday before worship)
- Details of Ingathering Sunday
- Leadership retreat – when who where how what
- Committee on Ministry: how, what, who etc
- ANNUAL MEETING (9/27/20),
  - Annual Reports – (C'ees and Councils will need to send to Gwen for publishing)
  - Approving a budget.